

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/085,829

Examiner

Alexander J Kosowski

Applicant(s)

STEWART, EDWARD C.

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the after final amendment filed 10/7/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

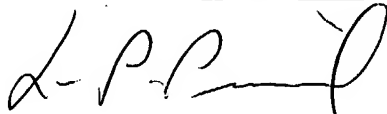
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), •
Paper No./Mail Date 10252004.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

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DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

- 1) An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
- 2) Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ruben Bains on 10/25/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

8. (Currently Amended) An equipment interface of a processing tool, comprising:
a storage unit; and
a control unit communicatively coupled to the storage unit, the control unit adapted to:
receive an error signal provided by a fault detection unit, wherein the error signal is
indicative of an error condition associated with the processing tool of a
manufacturing system;

access information related to the error condition from a ~~central~~ database, wherein the database includes information associating one or more error faults with one or more processing tools; and

determine a possible cause of the error condition based on the accessed information.

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13. (Currently Amended) The equipment interface of claim 8, wherein the ~~central~~ database comprises entries regarding classification of the error condition.

15. (Currently Amended) An article comprising one or more machine-readable storage media containing instructions that when executed enable a processor to:

receive an error signal provided by a fault detection unit, wherein the error signal is indicative of a fault associated with processing of a wafer in a processing tool;

access information related to the fault from a ~~central~~ database, wherein the database includes information associating one or more error faults with the processing tool; and

perform diagnostics on the processing tool based on the accessed information.

19. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 15, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to access the ~~central~~ database to retrieve information related to a classification of the fault.

Allowable Subject Matter

3) Claims 1-26 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Referring to claims 1-7 and 21-26, the claims are allowable for the reasons cited by applicant in the "Remarks" section of the amendment filed 6/21/04.

Referring to claims 15-20, the claims are allowable for the reasons cited by applicant in the "Remarks" section of the amendment filed 10/7/04.

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Referring to claims 8-14, the claims are allowable for the reasons cited in the Interview Summary on 10/25/2004.

4) Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

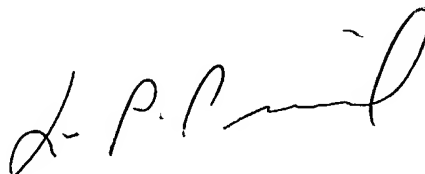
5) Although not used in any previous action, examiner wishes to add several pieces of related prior art to the record. These have been noted on the attached PTO-892.

6) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander J Kosowski whose telephone number is 571-272-3744. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on 571-272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306. In addition, the examiner's RightFAX number is 703-746-8370.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Alexander J. Kosowski
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2125



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